VOCATION NEWS FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE

March 2021





Vocations Office 2320 Airport Drive Columbus, OH 43219

As we move into Holy Week and relive Jesus' journey to Golgotha, where he suffered, died, and was resurrected, we invite you to reflect on what emerges in you. Stay with the feelings, images, and questions that might arise. What is Jesus saying to you and how do you see Jesus as he carries his cross? This is a profound journey we walk during Holy Week. May your journey be blessed and may Easter be a time of renewal for you.

May you find time in solitude for prayer and reflection to deepen your relationship with God.

Peace and Blessings,

Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP; Sr. Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP; Sr. Bea Tiboldi, OP; Mary Ellen George, OPA





Moving into Holy Week

Words to the song, "Hosanna, Hosanna, in the Highest!" swirled around us here in New Haven as we walked from the parking lot to the sanctuary of the church. We were six feet apart, masked, listening to the lone cantor from the choir loft while reflecting on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Certainly, the experience this year is different in some ways – yet, it is familiar in the age old customs of the liturgy and celebrations of this the holiest week of the year for Christians. This Holy Week, in New Haven, we will be participating in a mix of in-person and on-line liturgies and prayer services. Through it all, we will be walking with Jesus, who is always with us and who shows us the way to the cross and beyond. We have traveled together for almost 40 days during this Lent. We hope you have enjoyed our Lenten reflections posted daily on our <u>Facebook page</u> and on our <u>website</u>. We invite you to continue praying along with us during Holy Week and up to Easter Sunday. (Click <u>here</u> for resources you may find meaningful during this week.) As we move through this Holy Week, let us keep each other in prayer as we celebrate the Resurrection.



Invitation to Personal Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth is the fruit of a regular prayer life and is accessible to us all. Watch this <u>short video</u> to learn more about growing in your relationship with God and listen to how some of our Sisters have done this in their own lives.



Sisters on the Front Lines

Our Sisters respond to the needs of our times through ministry, advocacy, prayer, and education. One of the ways we have been able to help others during the COVID-19 pandemic is through direct outreach to those most in need. Being on the frontlines of the Church and in society, we are often the first ones to learn of those

struggling with illness, loss of jobs, inability to provide for their families, domestic violence, addiction, and the list goes on. Our congregation always has had a policy of helping people in need if we can. We set aside some money for this purpose every year. This year, a new initiative called, <u>Sisters on the Frontlines</u>, which is funded by Catholic Extension, the Conrad Hilton fund and others, has awarded grants to 26 of our sisters to directly aid those in need. Sisters Bea, MaiDung and June also participated in this #SistersontheFrontLine project.

Some of the projects our Dominican Sisters of Peace were involved in included:

- Paying rent and utilities for a woman in Louisiana who lost her job and whose son is on Death Row.
- Helping two young men in Kansas to get drivers licenses so they can drive to work to support their family.
- Providing tuition assistance to a promising young college student at Albertus Magnus College. His parents lost their jobs due to the pandemic and are struggling to pay for the necessities of life.
- Retired Sisters assembled backpacks of food for struggling families in Columbus, Ohio.
- In New Haven, Connecticut, the Sisters at the Springs Learning Center were able to assist two families who lost their jobs during the pandemic.



Upcoming Events

Discernment Prayer Group -- Our monthly, online prayer group will meet on **April 25** to explore the theme of contemplating peace and on **May 23**, we will pray the Rosary for vocations. Both meetings are from 4:00--5:00pm EST.

Emmaus Discernment Group -- This monthly program gives you the opportunity to join other discerning women to discuss vocation-related topics and to answer your questions. Here are the dates for

our upcoming meetings:

Friday, **April 9, 2021**, 2020, 7:30 to 9:00 pm ET and/or Sunday, **April 11, 2021**, 4:00 to 5:30 pm ET

Friday, **May 14, 2021**, 7:30 to 9:00 pm ET and/or Sunday, **May 16, 2021**, 4:00 to 5:30 pm ET

Vocation Video Gallery

Have you checked out our Vocation Video Gallery? You can view a myriad of videos here to give you a glimpse into our community life, ministries, celebrations, and more. This month, we invite you to explore our videos on <u>Discerning God's Call</u>.



Ask a Sister

Can I join you if I have a student loan?

Study is an important part of the Dominican charism, and we respect the time and investment that you have made in your own education. Don't let your student loan defer you from pursuing your call. You can start discerning while continuing to pay off your loan. Every person and situation is unique. Contact us – we look forward to helping you find a solution!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer is one of the foundations of our life and we invite you to share your prayer requests with us. Please send them to vocations@oppeace.org. Please also keep us, our congregation, and your fellow discerners in prayer.



The Vatican's Pope Video

We join the universal Church and Pope Francis as we pray we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the forgiveness and infinite mercy of God. And let us pray that God may give his Church merciful priests. You can listen to and watch this month's message <u>here</u>.

Learn more about us via our website at www.oppeace.org or check us out on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, and <u>Facebook</u>.

You can also contact our Vocation Ministers:

June Fitzgerald, OP -- <u>jfitzgerald@oppeace.org</u> Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP -- <u>mdnguyen@oppeace.org</u> Bea Tiboldi, OP -- <u>btiboldi@oppeace.org</u>